AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for loading and running pre-boot code on a computer that is configured to attempt to boot from a bootable source other than a harddisk before attempting to boot from the harddisk ~~from a local file~~, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

an act of retrieving pre-boot code ~~an image~~ from a file on the harddisk ~~computer~~ into random access memory, wherein the file is managed by a file system and the act of retrieving is performed without the file system first being operational on the computer ~~RAM, the image containing the pre-boot code~~;

an act of issuing a plurality of I/O requests directed to a bootable source other than the harddisk;

an act of ~~at least initiating~~ redirecting at least some of the plurality of the I/O requests to the random access memory;

an act of reading at least some of the pre-boot code from the random access memory using at least one of the redirected I/O requests; and an act of executing at least a portion of the pre-boot code read from the random access memory ~~to emulate a peripheral storage device of the computer, whereby a subsequent call to read a sector of data from the peripheral storage device returns data from an alternate source instead of returning data from the peripheral storage device, wherein the redirecting I/O step redirects floppy I/O to read from random access memory of the computer as the alternate source; and~~

~~reading at least a first sector of pre-boot code from the emulated peripheral storage device, and executing it, thereby passing control of the computer to the pre-boot code first sector~~.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing causes the computer to boot a first operating system that is different than a second operating system that would boot when booting from the harddisk ~~reading step reads a boot image and the passing control step passes control to an operating system which then boots on the computer, and wherein the computer boots from a different operating system when the redirecting step is not used~~.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the first operating system is a ~~boot image includes~~ DOS operating system ~~code, and the passing control step results in booting DOS on the computer~~.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] method [[of claim 1]] for loading and running pre-boot code on a computer from a local file, comprising the steps of:

retrieving an image from a file on the computer into RAM, the image containing the pre-boot code;

at least initiating redirecting I/O to emulate a peripheral storage device of the computer, whereby a subsequent call to read a sector of data from the peripheral storage device returns data from an alternate source instead of returning data from the peripheral storage device, wherein the redirecting I/O step redirects floppy I/O to read from random access memory of the computer as the alternate source; and

reading at least a first sector of pre-boot code from the emulated peripheral storage device, and executing it, thereby passing control of the computer to the pre-boot code first sector, wherein the reading step reads an image containing pre-boot code which flashes BIOS in a memory of the computer.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] method of claim 1 for loading and running pre-boot code on a computer from a local file, comprising the steps of:

retrieving an image from a file on the computer into RAM, the image containing the pre-boot code;

at least initiating redirecting I/O to emulate a peripheral storage device of the computer, whereby a subsequent call to read a sector of data from the peripheral storage device returns data from an alternate source instead of returning data from the peripheral storage device, wherein the redirecting I/O step redirects floppy I/O to read from random access memory of the computer as the alternate source; and

reading at least a first sector of pre-boot code from the emulated peripheral storage device, and executing it, thereby passing control of the computer to the pre-boot code first sector, wherein the reading step reads an image containing pre-boot code which logs a subsequent boot process to detect boot failure and assist determination of a cause of boot failure on the computer.

Claim 6. (Cancelled).

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the bootable source ~~peripheral storage device is a floppy drive and the method comprises loading a floppy image into extended memory of the computer as the alternate source~~.

Claims 8-16. (Cancelled).

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A computer system configured to attempt to boot from a bootable source other than a harddisk before attempting to boot from the harddisk ~~to run pre-boot code from a local file~~, the computer system comprising:

a random access memory;

a processor in operable connection with the [[a]] random access memory;

a local hard drive accessible to the processor without a network connection, the local hard drive ~~storing a partition, the partition containing a file system, the file system containing a file, the file~~ containing [[the]] pre-boot code; and

a pre-boot code loading means for retrieving [[reading]] the pre-boot code from the local hard drive into the random access memory without the file system first being operational on the computer system; and a redirection means configured to receive I/O requests directed to a bootable source other than the local hard drive to the random access memory, wherein the processor executes the pre-boot code from the random access memory when attempting to boot from the bootable source ~~file into the random access memory for execution by the processor prior to or in place of booting on the computer system an operating system which is distinct from the pre-boot code~~.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The configured computer system of claim 17, wherein the pre-boot code loading means comprises code for redirecting bootable source ~~floppy drive~~ I/O to read pre-boot code from a contiguous region in the random access memory.

Claims 19-21. (Cancelled).

Claim 22. (Original) The configured computer system of claim 17, wherein the pre-boot code loading means changes the name of a file an NT boot record will load.

Claim 23. (Original) The configured computer system of claim 17, wherein the pre-boot code loading means substitutes pre-boot code for standard NT loader code.

Claims 24 and 25. (Cancelled).

Claim 26. (Original) The configured computer system of claim 17, wherein the pre-boot code loading means caches pre-boot code, whereby part of the pre-boot code is in memory and part is on disk.

Claim 27. (Original) The configured computer system of claim 17, wherein the pre-boot code loading means permits the system to be booted into a DOS operating system without using a boot floppy disk and without booting off of a DOS hard disk partition.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) A configured computer program storage medium which contains software to perform a method [[steps]] for running pre-boot code from a local file, the method [[steps]] comprising [[the steps of]]:

an act of retrieving pre-boot code from a file on a harddisk into random access memory, wherein the file is managed by a file system and the act of retrieving is performed without the file system first being operational on the computer;

upon receiving plurality of I/O requests directed to a bootable source other than the harddisk, an act of redirecting at least some of the plurality of the I/O requests to the random access memory;

an act of reading at least some of the pre-boot code from the random access memory using at least one of the redirected I/O requests to thereby access the pre-boot code from the random access memory instead of the bootable source ~~redirecting I/O of a peripheral storage device of the computer, whereby a subsequent call to read a sector of data from the peripheral storage device returns data from an alternate source instead of returning data from the peripheral storage device;~~

~~obtaining an image from a file on the computer, the image containing the pre-boot code, the image obtained at least in part by using redirected I/O; and~~

~~passing control of the computer to the pre-boot code~~.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) The configured computer program storage medium of claim 28, the method further comprising ~~wherein the obtaining step obtains a boot image and the passing control step passes~~ an act of passing control to an operating system so that the operating system may execute the pre-boot code to thereby cause the operating system to boot ~~which then boots~~ on the computer.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) The configured computer program storage medium of claim 29, wherein the pre-boot code [[image]] includes DOS operating system code~~, and the passing control step results in booting a DOS operating system on the computer without using a boot floppy disk and without booting off of a DOS hard disk partition~~.

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) The configured computer program storage medium of claim 28, wherein the bootable source is a floppy ~~redirecting I/O step redirects floppy I/O to read from a random access memory of the computer as the alternate source~~.

Claim 32-35. (Cancelled).

Claim 36. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the bootable source is a CD-ROM drive.

Claim 37. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the bootable source is a tape drive.